Attorney Docket No. AK-423XX Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit:

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 3 and 4 have been amended; new claims 5-8 have been added; and original claims 1 and 2 remain unchanged. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

ATSUSHI KOIDE, ET AL.

By: Severy E. Ajorth

Registration No. 32,033 Attorney for Applicant(s)

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP

Ten Post Office Square

Boston, MA 02109

Telephone: (617) 542-2290 Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

Date: August 21, 2003

CLG/mc/295108-1